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DANCING.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Wetherell's classes in Dancing Academy, Masonic Building, Jackson street, will open for Children Saturday, September 22nd, 8 to 10:30 p. m. Adults, Monday, September 24, 8 to 10:30 p. m. Childrens class under the direction of Mrs. Wetherell and Miss Mamie Smith. Hall for rent for social parties. For terms call or address at Academy.

EXCURSIONS SANTA FE ROUTE.

Home seekers' excursion to Texas, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, Arizona, Idaho, Arkansas, Louisiana and southwest Missouri. Tickets sold October 9, good for twenty days. One fare, plus \$2.00 for the round trip. Santa Fe route.

The STARR JOURNAL'S Want and Miscellaneous columns reach each working day in the week more than twice as many Topeka people as can be reached through any other paper. This is a fact.

One word describes it—"perfection." We refer to De Witt's Witch Hazel Salve, cures obstinate sores, burns, skin diseases and is a well known cure for piles. J. K. Jones.

For instance, Mrs. Chas. Rogers, of Bay City, Mich., accidentally spilled scalding water over her little boy. She promptly applied De Witt's Witch Hazel Salve, giving instant relief. It's a wonderfully good salve for burns, bruises, sores, and a sure cure for Piles. J. K. Jones.

CHECKING THE BABIES.

A Theatrical Idea Which Pleases Play-Going Mothers.

Hereafter Every First-Class Theater Must Have a Crèche—Maiden Furnished by the Management to Take Care of Infants.

"Well, I declare!" exclaimed a lady upon entering one of the large theaters in New York city. "That's something I would never do." The "that" in question referred to a rather unique custom which is rapidly coming into vogue in this ever-progressive country. In some large cities there are theaters which give continuous performances from noon to eleven p. m. Any person paying for a seat can occupy it as long as he or she chooses, and no efforts are spared to render the audience entirely comfortable. Refreshments are close at hand, and as the entertainment is of the light vaudeville order, with the scenes constantly changing, these play houses have come to be popular resorts for all classes.

But soon after opening, one great drawback was discovered. Mothers and nurses with infants of all ages and temperaments flocked to the theaters, and confusion instantly ensued. In the midst of the most thrilling scene where the prima donna touched her highest note, a dozen youngsters from all parts of the auditorium would seep up a shrill and discordant chorus of wails. Of course, the aspiring infants were quickly hushed out by snuffly mothers and nurses, followed by humiliated mothers or maids.

Nevertheless the number of these habits seemed to increase, and the proprietors were confronted with the necessity of meeting the difficulty. Extra rooms were fitted up, which served



THEATER CRECHE.

as havens of refuge where the disgruntled babies could be effectually soothed, a clever arrangement, which, however, prevented the other persons concerned from witnessing the performance. Accordingly maids were secured, so that now the mother simply lays her ticket and deposits the baby in a room. Here, with a goodly amount of the latest fluid and a few gaw or two, the mischievous youngsters enjoy life in their own peculiar way while the mothers "take in" the vaudeville in uninterrupted bliss.

In some places where the number is very large special rooms have been fitted up in a building adjoining the theater. Here the infant is deposited and the mother receives a check. "No. 101, deposited at 2 p. m., to be called for at 5:30." This method, says Mr. Wetherell, of the theater in New York, admits, "is more systematic and prevents all property dispute. But yet," he remarked, "it has some drawbacks. For, you know, a mother always wants to be near her child and likes to see it often. Now, in our theater she can go back and ask: 'Ooze little baby is oo?' as often as she pleases and still return in time to see the next living picture, whereas in the other way she may miss a whole act."—Detroit Free Press.

SEALING-WAX LANGUAGE.

Chocolate for Dinner Invitations, Brown for Rejected Letters.

In Europe, and especially in France, there is among fashionable people a species of code in the use of sealing wax. The white article is used for communications relating to weddings, black for mourning correspondence, violet for expressions of sympathy, chocolate for invitations to dinner, red for business letters, ruby for the billets-doux of engaged lovers, green for lovers not yet affianced and brown for refusals of offers of marriage.

Blue symbolizes constancy, yellow sealing wax jealousy, and pale green reproaches. Schoolgirls seal their letters with pink wax, and intimate friends use gray.

The use of sealing wax is exceedingly ancient. It was not, however, until the reign of King Louis XIII. of France that it became the fashion among the higher classes of Europe.

The oldest known recipe for making sealing wax was published in Augsburg in 1879, and prescribed almost the same ingredients as those now employed.

The use of blue wax was formerly restricted to royalty, a superstitious provision owing to the difficulty of imparting this color to sealing wax, for the reason that vegetable dyes when united with wax become greenish.

Something About Hosiery.

A cotton stocking is preferred by many women to a lace thread, as the twist of the thread in the lace ones irritates the soles of the feet. Dark-blue and black stockings are liked for street wear, except where tan shoes are worn, and then, of course, the stockings match the shoes. The navy-blue stocking is usually chosen by those who find that the dye from a black stocking affects their skin. This is by no means common, but the very minute it is discovered one should cease wearing the black and select another color, or else wear white, for one never knows to what extent a skin disorder may go. With gray or scarlet shoes or slippers the stockings are chosen to match, and these may be gotten in silk at a much lower price than is given for black ones.



AFTER MARRIAGE.

HE—My dear, I am a little short of money. Could you let me have twenty thousand dollars of your million for a few days?
SHE—I have no million dollars.
HE—Before we were married you said you were worth a million.
SHE—Why, you often told me I was worth my weight in gold, and I thought (one hundred and forty-two pounds in gold was worth about a million; that's all.

A GIRL PILOT.

Miss Polhemus Brings Ships Into the Harbor of San Diego.

Miss Elizabeth Polhemus of San Diego will soon be a regular and licensed pilot, as she knows the harbor as well as any man on the coast and only has to wait the prescribed time to pass an examination before the California board of pilot commissioners.



MISS POLHEMUS.

Her father is a veteran in that line stands by her, and his name is given merely to comply with the law. Not once in six months has it been necessary to change any of her orders, as she knows every reef, shoal and current of San Diego harbor.

Her father is a veteran of the sea, fought for his country in the navy, has sailed all seas as master of big merchant ships and now holds an important position in the harbor of San Diego. The daughter has lived all her life by the sea or on it. When in her teens, she could handle an 80 foot schooner in a stiff breeze almost like a veteran and at length won the highest honors of the profession. One afternoon during a half gale from the southeast a 3,000 ton collier came in, and the master, in his eagerness to make port that afternoon, ran too close before taking a pilot and found himself about to be driven on Zanzibar shoal, off the harbor mouth.

Miss Polhemus, being the only pilot available at the time, soon reached the collier, and after giving the captain her opinion of his carelessness in very forcible sailor English took the wheel, gave orders to shorten sail and soon had the vessel on another tack. This achievement excited the enthusiasm of all the pilots on the coast. When Miss Polhemus gets her pilot's certificate, her fees for bringing a vessel in will be \$5 per foot of the vessel's draft and 4 cents per ton—a very profitable profession indeed for a woman.

MAY SUCCEED GENERAL MILES.

The Brilliant Military Career of General Thomas Howard Ruger.

General Thomas Howard Ruger, who is slated to succeed General Nelson A. Miles at Chicago, commanding department of the Missouri, when the latter is transferred to New York, has had a very wide and varied experience and has several times been much discussed in the newspapers as commander in places where civil and military affairs were badly interlocked. Especially was this the case during his command



GENERAL RUGER.

in South Carolina in 1876-7. In one of the most embarrassing and harassing situations in which a military man can be placed he did his duty with a cool impartiality which won the esteem of all parties. His administration of the West Point Military Academy from 1871 to 1876 also exhibited great executive ability.

He was born in Lima, N. Y., April 2, 1833, graduated from West Point in 1854, was assistant engineer in charge of the construction of defenses of New Orleans till his resignation, after which he practiced law in Jamestown, Wis., till the outbreak of the civil war. June

29, 1861, he was commissioned lieutenant colonel of the Third regiment Wisconsin Volunteer infantry, but soon became its colonel and commanded it in very active service till November, 1862, when he was made brigadier general. He participated in many hard fought battles in different departments and was mustered out of the volunteer service June 15, 1866. He was at once made a colonel in the regular army and attained the rank of brigadier general. He had been brevetted major general of volunteers for gallant and meritorious services at the battle of Franklin, Tenn.

He was also provisional governor of Georgia during the first half of 1868. In 1879 he took final leave of the south and was in command at Fort Assiniboine and at Helena, Mont., until 1885. The infantry and cavalry school at Fort Leavenworth was then under his command for a year, after which he was transferred in turn to the departments of Missouri, Dakota and California. He made a fine record in the field during the Pine Ridge Indian campaign of 1891. If transferred from California to the department of the Missouri, as army men now think certain, General Ruger will rank third in the army, General Schofield being first and General Miles, if put in command at New York, second.

Volcanoes Under the Sea.
Since the beginning of this century no less than 52 volcanic islands have risen out of the sea; 19 disappeared, being submerged; the others remain, and 10 are now inhabited.

The Greatest of Hacks.
It is said that Littré, compiler of the monumental dictionary of the French language, was the greatest literary toiler of modern times.

By a Simple Twist of the Wrist.

Three new members were added to the naval pay corps the other day after the good old fashion. One was the son of an admiral, another the son of an army captain and grandson of an admiral, and the third the son of an influential Tennesseean bearing a high military title. It is a tradition in the pay corps that there was once an attempt to establish the system of competitive examinations as preliminary to the choice of appointees, and one of the few men that have entered the corps in that fashion owns that he came up for examination in French and Spanish with the merest schoolboy rudimentary knowledge of the former and a good deal less of the latter. He came out near the head of the class, and a little judicious pressure upon his congressman eventually brought him his commission as assistant paymaster.

How They Got Skulls.

In one of his introductory lectures, in a recent semester, the late Professor Hyrtl addressed his hearers as follows: "Gentlemen, you must get possession of skulls. It is impossible to study anatomy unless you have skulls. Each of you must find means, any means, to get a skull." On the following morning he entered his auditorium with a sorrowful face, "Gentlemen," he began, "I fear some of you misunderstood me. You certainly have left no means untried to secure skulls. I noticed that my handsome collection was almost depleted this morning." The students had taken him at his word and induced the servants to divide out the skulls of Hyrtl, which formed one of the chief attractions to medical men in the famous teacher's house.

To Right the Wrong.

While the late Lord Coleridge was at Oxford, it was his duty as a fellow to read the lessons in chapel, and one day he read, by mistake, the second lesson where he should have read the first. To conclude it in the orthodox way was hardly correct, as it was not the second lesson, but the first nor could it well be described as the first lesson, as properly it was the second. A moment's hesitation supplied him with the appropriate word: "Here endeth the wrong lesson."

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IDA GERTRUDE RUSSELL.

THE WORKING CHINESE.

They Leave Home to Make Money and Go Back to Enjoy It.

"I remember during our civil war," said a Mississippi planter, "hearing an old negro on my father's plantation say that the war was necessary because the people were getting too thick and the Lord would thin them out. I think this reason might be fully as appropriate in reference to the present Chinese and Japanese quarrel. Chinamen swarm not only in portions of our country, but wherever they can get a foothold. The cities in the East Indies are full of them. They are shopkeepers, farmers and particularly mechanics. Hardly a mechanic of any description can be found there who is not a Chinaman. Incessant and indefatigable workers, they save a competency, and sometimes large fortunes, and then return to China to live at their ease. Many well-to-do Chinamen go home before their youth is passed, and marry, stay a short time and then return to their money-making, and, in many cases, their temporary and foreign wives. No respectable Chinese woman ever leaves her native land, for it is against the law, and even if their lives were not forfeited on their return, all social standing would be lost to them. On this account the Chinamen do not bring their wives with them, and though their sons that are born to them in foreign countries are brought up as Chinese, the daughters never go to China, but stay in the land of their birth."

SNAKE-KILLING IGUANAS.

These Large Lizards Make a Regular Job of Fighting Serpents.

"In South America," said a traveler recently, "snakes are very numerous. Perhaps the most notable of these snake-killers is the large lizard known as the iguana. The iguana is no mean adversary, as may be judged from the fact that dogs which attack one often come off with a broken leg. The lizard does not wait for the snake to take the offensive, but goes swiftly in pursuit, and being very rapid in its motions rarely has any difficulty in overtaking its victim, which it dispatches with blows from its powerful tail. I remember a funny experience I had with one of these lizards which clearly illustrated its hatred for snakes. I was riding with a friend in search of cattle. My lasso was attached to the saddle and the end trailed along the ground behind me.

"A big iguana lay in the sun apparently asleep. It paid no attention to my horse as it passed, but the next instant it raised its head and fixed its attention on the twenty feet of lasso slowly trailing by. Suddenly it rushed after the rope and dealt it a succession of violent blows with its tail. When the whole of the lasso, several yards of which had been dragged by the lizard, with uplifted head, continued to gaze after it with evident astonishment. Never before had such a wonderful snake crossed its path."

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